



## Travis County Fire Marshal's Office

Hershel Lee, Fire Marshal  
P. O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767  
(512) 854-4621, fax (512) 854-6471

June 24, 2014

### **Fire Marshal recommends leaving fireworks to professionals**

The July 4 fireworks sale season runs today through July 4, but the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office recommends celebrating Independence Day by leaving the fireworks to the professionals. The Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshals are working this season to try to ensure a safer holiday. They are inspecting fireworks stands and are scheduled to patrol on July 4 in an effort to remind the public to stay safe if they choose to use fireworks.

"By attending a professionally-run fireworks show rather than using fireworks yourself, you reduce the risk of getting injured and starting a fire," said Fire Marshal Hershel Lee. "Fireworks-related injuries and accidental fires are always a concern for us during the July Fourth holiday."

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 2011 included 9,600 fireworks-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. The trend in fireworks-related injuries has remained mostly in the range of 8,500 to 9,800 since 1997. More than one-quarter (26 percent) of those victims in 2011 were under age 15.

Adults should make sure their children do not possess illegal fireworks or mishandle legal ones. If celebrating with fireworks is legal in your area, and you decide to use them, follow these safety tips.

- Buy from reliable fireworks sellers only and never attempt to make your own fireworks.
- To detonate fireworks, find a flat surface, away from buildings, dry leaves and grass.
- Have water on hand in case of a fire.
- Insist on adult supervision when buying or setting off fireworks.
- Read and follow label directions, warnings and instructions.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never try to re-light fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Never give fireworks to small children; even sparklers can cause serious burns.

--MORE--

To view additional fireworks safety information, go to:  
[www.co.travis.tx.us/fire\\_marshal/prevention/fireworks.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/fire_marshal/prevention/fireworks.asp).

In unincorporated parts of Travis County, the sale and possession of fireworks are legal. Both are prohibited within the city limits of Austin. In addition, fireworks are not allowed in Travis County Parks and parks managed by Travis County.

###

**Submitted by: Travis County Emergency Services Public Information Officer Lisa Block, 512-854-7954.**